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## Mexico

**Post:** Mexico

### Mexico Aims to Streamline Standards

#### Report Categories:

Policy and Program Announcements

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Beverages

Cotton and Products

Dairy and Products

Dried Fruit

Fishery Products

Food Processing Ingredients Sector

Fresh Fruit

Grain and Feed

Livestock and Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Potatoes and Potato Products

Organic Products

Sugar

Tree Nuts

Wood Products

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**Report Highlights:**

A recent publication in the Diario Oficial (Federal Register) announced Mexico's plans to increase its legislative efficiency by eliminating a wide variety of standards and streamlining others. While this is an annual exercise that regularly fails to meet its lofty goals, it does provide insight into the Government of Mexico's priorities and opinions regarding regulations it may perceive as cumbersome.

**General Information:**

On April 9, 2010, the GOM published a notice in the Diario Oficial announcing the application of the 2010 National Normalization Program. This annual program seeks to reduce the number of Official Mexican Regulations (Norma Oficial Mexicana or NOM) and other regulations in an effort to promote more streamlined national regulations.

The National Normalization Program was established by the Federal Law on Metrology and Normalization and was designed as an instrument for the planning, coordination and notification of normalization activities at the national level. Though a large number of standards are identified in the April 9 notice as targeted for reduction, this actually represents a wish list of regulations to be removed and, based on past analysis of this yearly ritual, only a select few will actually be eliminated by the end of the year. However, it should be noted that the GOM recently officially stated that it wished to reduce the number of national standards from 11,000 to 3,000 by October of this year.

The rest of this report summarizes the proposed elimination of agriculturally-relevant standards and is organized by the different secretariats responsible for each regulation. Therefore, it does not include a summary of all the standards slated for elimination.

**Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food.****National Regulation Consultative Committee of Zoosanitary Protection****A. Published Projects**

1. Mexican Official Regulation PROY-NOM-067-ZOO-2007, National Campaign to prevent and control rabies in bovine and cattle species, published in the Diario Oficial (Federal Register) on July 6, 2009.

**A. Rescheduled Topics**

2. Modification to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-031-ZOO-1995, National Campaign against Bovine Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), published in the Diario Oficial (Federal Register) on December 3, 2007.

Objective: To regulate and establish procedures, activities, criteria, strategies, technologies and characteristics for the control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis. It will apply to all facilities that handle bovines.

3. Technical specifications for establishing good manufacturing practices to produce veterinary products.

Objective: To establish zoosanity measures to offset physical, chemical and microbiological risk contamination in veterinary products by establishing good manufacturing practices in the establishments that make chemical, pharmaceutical and biological products to be used or consumed by animals.

4. Aquaculture health specifications for the importation of aquatic crustaceans, products and by-products as well as biological, chemical, pharmaceutical or food products to be used or consumed by aquatic crustaceans, and for the movement of aquatic crustaceans into national territory, their byproducts and biological products to be used or consumed.

Objective: To establish aquaculture health requirements to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases of economic and quarantine importance into national territory, preventing their release into the country.

5. Aquaculture health technical specifications for importing aquatic species for ornamentals and for the operation of quarantine units.

Objective: To establish the aquaculture health requirements for importing aquatic species for ornamentals as well as for the operation of quarantine units.

#### 6. National System for Cattle Identification

Objective: To establish procedures, activities, criteria and strategies for cattle identification. Design an animal traceability program supported by an official identification device with a unique code, including animal information entered in an official database, movement monitoring and other relevant productive and sanitary events in the life of the animal. Establishment of a life history of all the animals from birth to death, including products and by-products obtained from the animal.

7. Amendment to the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-002-ZOO-1994, technical and operative activities related to the National Program for African Bee Control.

Objective: To establish technical and operative activities applicable to the national program for African bee control and to national apiculture.

8. Amendment to the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-004-ZOO-1994, Fat, liver, muscle and kidneys in birds, bovines, deer, equine, sheep and hogs. Toxic residues: maximum limits allowed and sampling procedures.

Objective: To specify maximum limits allowed of toxic residues in fat, liver, muscle and kidneys of birds, bovines, deer, equines, sheep and hogs.

9. Amendment to the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-022-ZOO-1995, Characteristics and zoosanitary specifications for facilities, equipment and establishment operations that commercialize chemical, pharmaceutical, biological and food products to be used or consumed by animals.

Objective: To establish the characteristics and zoosanitary specifications for facilities, equipment and establishment operations that commercialize chemical, pharmaceutical, biological and food products to be used or consumed by animals. The purpose is to ensure that those products preserve the quality specifications provided by the manufacturer.

- Amendment to the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-060-ZOO-1999, Zoosanitary specifications for the use of animal offal in the manufacturing of animal feed.

Objective: Establish specifications to regulate the use of animal offal and animal flours in the manufacturing of animal feed, to prevent the zoosanitary risk associated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

This regulation applies to all persons and companies responsible for handling, slaughtering, cutting and processing animals and that produce offal, meat, bone, blood, or chicken flours, mixes of either domestic or imported sources as well as those dedicated to manufacturing animal feed formulas for internal consumption or for sale.

- Amendment to the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-062-ZOO-1999, technical specifications to produce, care for and test animals within laboratories (five-year review).

Objective: The national regulation objective is to establish and standardize the technical specifications for the production, care and use of laboratory animals.

#### **A. Regulations and Projects to be Cancelled**

- Cancelling of the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-018-ZOO-1994, Approved Veterinarians.

Justification: This regulation will be cancelled because it is out of date and no longer applicable due to the Federal Law of Animal Health, which provides authorization for the persons in charge of production units or of establishments.

13. Amendment to the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-035-ZOO-1995, Minimal requirements for vaccines, antigens and reagents used in the prevention and control of rabies in domestic species (this regulation will be canceled once the Official Mexican Regulation of the national campaign for the prevention and control of rabies in bovine and cattle species is published).

Justification: This regulation will be cancelled once the official Mexican Regulation for the national campaign is published.

14. Cancellation of the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-044-ZOO-1995, National Campaign against Avian Influenza.

Justification: This NOM will be replaced by the new Animal Health Law once published.

#### **National Regulation Consultative Committee of Phytosanitary Protection**

## **A) New Topics**

1. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-075-FITO-1997, by which phytosanitary requirements and specifications are established for the transport and shipping of fruits that host fruit flies.

Objective: To protect the fruit fly-free areas and areas of low prevalence through the establishment of phytosanitary requirements and procedures that must be complied with by persons interested in transporting fruits linked with the fruit fly pest.

2. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-025-FITO-2000, for the establishment of areas under protection and pest-free areas of quarantine potato pests.

Objective: To establish the regulations that will allow the addition of areas under protection and free areas to the geographical areas that are free of quarantine potato pests, as well as the measures of prevention and eradication that should be applied to maintain this phytosanitary condition.

3. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-044-FITO-1995, by which the phytosanitary requirements and specifications are established to import nuts, processed and dehydrated vegetable products and by-products (5<sup>th</sup> year review).

Objective: To establish the phytosanitary requirements for imported processed vegetable products, dehydrated or dry, to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests.

4. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-006-FITO-1995, by which the minimum requirements that must be observed for imported vegetables, their products and by-products are established, for cases where these requirements are not established in a specific official regulation.

Objective: To establish the general guidelines that must be met by imported vegetables, their products or by-products that are included in the agreement that establishes the classification and codification of imported goods that are subject to regulation by the Secretariat of Agriculture.

5. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-007-FITO-1995, by which phytosanitary requirements and specifications are established to import propagative plant material.

Objective: To establish the phytosanitary requirements for imported propagative plant material (except botanical seeds and forest species) to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests to Mexico.

6. Amendment to Mexican Official Regulation NOM-013-FITO-1995, which establishes foreign quarantine to prevent the introduction of rice pests.

Objective: This Mexican Official Regulation is intended to prevent the introduction of rice quarantine pests into Mexican territory by establishing regulations and phytosanitary measures for imports of plants, seeds and grains of rice.

7. Amendment to NOM-022-FITO-1995, Requirements and specifications that must be met by “legal entities” (i.e., companies) for the provision of phytosanitary treatments.

Objective: The present Mexican Official Regulation establishes the requirements and specifications to be met by “legal entities” interested in setting up companies to provide phytosanitary treatment services for plants, their products and sub-products for import, export or internal movement, as well as the procedures for the implementation of phytosanitary treatments. These provisions are applicable to legal entities established as phytosanitary treatment companies.

8. Amendment project to Mexican Official Regulation NOM-066-FITO-2002, Specifications for phytosanitary management and movement of avocados.

Objective: This Mexican Official Regulation establishes the requirements and specifications for the phytosanitary management and movement of avocado fruits (*Persea spp.*). The provisions of this Regulation shall be applied to:

- a. Commercial orchards, backyard production, processing plants, packing houses, storage centers and supply centers.
- b. Marginal Areas.
- c. Others as determined by the Secretariat of Agriculture

## **B) Rescheduled Topics**

9. Amendment to Mexican Official Regulation NOM-005-FITO-1995, Establishing foreign quarantine to prevent the introduction of the khapra beetle.

Objective: This Mexican Official Regulation seeks to establish phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction of the khapra beetle to Mexico and is only applicable to products and by-products included in items 4.1 and 4.2 of this regulation, to products and by-products used as packaging material as well as the transport used for the international shipment of these products and by-products when they originate in countries identified as khapra beetle hosts.

10. Amendment project to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-077-FITO-2000, by which the requirements and specifications are established for the completion of studies on the biological effectiveness of plant nutrition inputs (5 year review).

Objective: To establish the requirements and specifications for studies of the biological effectiveness of plant nutrition inputs in national territory and to obtain their registration.

11. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-012-FITO-1996, which establishes external external quarantines to prevent the introduction of potato pests.

Objective: To prevent the introduction, establishment and dissemination within the national territory of of potato quarantine pests through the establishment of regulations and phytosanitary measures for their import.

12. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-008-FITO-1995, by which phytosanitary

requirements and specifications are established for importing fresh fruits and vegetables.

Objective: To establish the phytosanitary requirements and specifications for imported fresh fruits and vegetables in order to prevent the introduction, dissemination and establishment of pests of quarantine importance to the national territory. This is applicable to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as the products and vegetable by-products used as wrapping or packing material for them.

- Amendment to Mexican Official Regulation NOM-026-FITO-1995, which provides pest control for cotton.

Objective: This regulation establishes the standards that must be met to control the pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella* Saunders) and boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis* Boheman), which affect the cultivation of cotton, and to prevent the spread of both in pest-free zones.

14. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-068-FITO-2000, by which phytosanitary measures are established to fight the plantain Moko (Bacterial wilt) and prevent dissemination (5<sup>th</sup> year review).

Objective: This regulation establishes phytosanitary measures that must be complied with to control plantain Moko infections, to avoid their dissemination and to eradicate the illness in infected areas.

15. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-023-FITO-1995, by which the national campaign against fruit flies is established.

Objective: To include in the current Mexican Official Regulation the new types of traps and fruit fly attractants as well as updated chemical products for the control of pests. This amendment also seeks to harmonize the national phytosanitary specifications with established international regulations.

16. Amendment to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-032-FITO-1995, by which the phytosanitary requirements and specifications are established for studies of biological effectiveness of agricultural pesticides and their analyses.

Objective: To harmonize the dispositions established in NOM-032-FITO-1995 with the current regulation and upgrade specifications of the regulation to reflect current methods.

### **C) Regulations and Projects to be Cancelled**

17. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-003-FITO-1995, which establishes the campaign against the lethal yellowing of the coconut.

Objective: The disease did not affect coconuts as expected; therefore, the NOM does not meet the goal for which it was created and it requires an update of the regulatory framework of the disease based on the current situation.

18. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-053-FITO-1995, which establishes the requirements and phytosanitary specifications for the broadcasting of phytosanitary inputs.



Objective: Update existing regulation to harmonize it with current legislation as well as for regulatory simplification.

19. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-037-FITO-1995, which establishes the specifications for production and processing of organic agricultural products.

Objective: A Law for Organic Products was issued on February 7, 2006; therefore, there is no justification for the NOM to continue in force.

20. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-070-FITO-2002, which establishes the requirements and specifications for the biological control agents for agricultural pests, except weeds, to be imported or moved.

Objective: In the short term, a regulation under the jurisdiction of Federal Plant Protection Act will be published and will cover these activities.

21. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-072-FITO-2002, which establishes the requirements and specifications for agricultural pest biological control agents for weeds, both imported and transported internally.

Objective: In the short term, the Regulation of the Federal Plant Protection Act will be published and will cover these activities.

22. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-061-FITO-1995, which establishes the features and specifications to be met by quarantine stations.

Objective: Since 1995, there have been important technological advances in infrastructure, equipment, equipment, materials, etc.; therefore, a new project is needed in order to establish the features and specifications required for the proper operation of a quarantine station.

23. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-078-FITO-2000, which establishes the phytosanitary regulation to prevent and deter the spread of sorghum ergot.

Objective: The sorghum ergot pest is present throughout the country; therefore, the NOM is no longer needed.

24. Cancellation of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-067-FITO-2000, which establishes the procedures for phytosanitary certification and production of hybrid coconut seed resistant to lethal yellowing pest.

Objective: The lethal yellowing pest is present throughout the country; therefore, the NOM is no longer needed.

## **National Regulation Consultative Committee for Customer Safety, and Trade Information and Practices**

### **A. Published Projects**

- PROY-NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2009, General Specifications of Labeling for Prepackaged Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Trade and Health Information, published in Mexico's Federal Register (*Diario Oficial*) on August 26, 2009.

Objective: To continue with the regulatory process of PROY-NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2009, published in the Mexico's Federal Register on August 26, 2009, to establish a minimum and mandatory regulatory regime on the commercial and nutritional information that food and beverage labels should contain, in order to ensure complete and accurate information to consumers regarding their product purchases. Moreover, its objective is achieving full compliance with Mexican law, coupled with the fact it is compatible with the features and specifications of international standard "CODEX General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (Codex Stan 1-1985 - Rev. 1-1991).

### **B) New Topics**

- Milk formula and blended dairy products: name, physical and chemical specifications, commercial information and testing methods.

Objective: To establish the physical and chemical specifications for the various types of milk formula and blended dairy products, which are sold within Mexico's territory and can be classified depending on the type of fat, primary and secondary processing or taste.

#### **A. Rescheduled Topics**

5. Amendment to Mexican Official Regulation NOM-155-SCFI-2003, regarding milk, milk formula and blended dairy products.

Objective: Update test method and indicator by which the acidity of the different types of milk, infant formula and blended dairy products are determined. Modify the protein specifications of ultra-pasteurized, ultra micro-filtered and rehydrated milk. Also seeks to differentiate and separate the milk name of the appellations of milk formula and milk product combined, as it does not have the same characteristics.

6. Yogurt-Name, physical and chemical specifications, commercial information and test methods.

Objective: To establish the yogurt denominations, physicochemical specifications, commercial information and test methods that have to be used for verification of those specifications.

7. Cheese-Name, physicochemical specifications, commercial information and test methods.

Objective: To establish commercial designations, physicochemical specifications, commercial

information and test methods to be applied to cheeses that are sold within the Mexican territory to verify they meet specifications.

8. Nectar Name, physical and chemical specifications, commercial information and test methods.

Objective: To establish the characteristics of the commercial name of fruit nectars that are marketed within the Mexican territory, as well as trade information to be displayed on the package label for that product in order to inform consumers about the product attributes when making their purchase decision.

9. Amendment to Mexican Official Regulation NOM-084-SCFI-1994, Commercial information: specifications of commercial and health information of pre-packed tuna and “bonito” products.

Objective: To update the specifications and test methods of this Official Mexican Standard and adopt or adapt the prevailing specifications at the international level and which are not covered by the existing NOM.

## **Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources**

### **National Regulation Consultative Committee of the Environment and Natural Resources**

#### **B) Rescheduled Topics**

1. To establish the characteristics and content for reporting results of the release of genetically modified organisms in connection with the possible risks for the environment and biological diversity.

Objective: To determine the information about the possible risks for the environment and the biological diversity that should be provided by the holder of the permit to release a genetically modified organism to the environment.

2. Amendments to NOM-144-SEMARNAT-2004, which establishes the internationally-recognized phytosanitary measures for the wooden packing that is used in the international trade of goods and merchandise.

Objective: To upgrade the specifications for the phytosanitary treatment of wooden packing that is used in the international trade of goods and merchandise.

3. Amendments to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-016-SEMARNAT-2003, which regulates the sanitary requirements for imported new sawed wood.

Objective: Establish the sanitary requirements that should be observed by new sawed wood in all its forms and presentations for its temporary and definitive import to be mandatory throughout the national territory for those who import it.

4. Amendments to the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-013-SEMARNAT-2004, which regulates the phytosanitary aspects related to the import of natural Christmas trees of the genus *Pinus* and *Abies* and the species *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

Objective: To establish the sanitary requirements that should be observed by natural Christmas trees of the genus *Pinus* and *Abies* and the species *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, to guarantee their sanitary conditions when these products are imported into the country. These requirements are mandatory throughout Mexico for all who import Christmas trees for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

## **Secretariat of Health**

### **National Regulation Consultative Committee of Regulatory and Sanitary Development**

#### **Subcommittee of Sanitary Control of Products and Services**

##### **A. New Topics**

1. Modification of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-194-SSA1-2004, which establishes the sanitary specifications for the slaughtering and dressing of animals and parts used for supply, storage, transportation and sale.

Objective: Review and update the mandatory health specifications and requirements governing establishments that slaughter and dress of animals.

##### **A. Rescheduled Topics**

2. Modification of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-086-SSA1-1994, which establishes the nutritional specifications for food and non-alcoholic beverages with changes to their composition requirements.

Objective: During the implementation and verification of this norm some compliance problems emerged, particularly ones related to its application. There have also been significant nutritional changes within the Mexican population, making it necessary to review the policies related to the addition of nutrients in foods.

3. Modification of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-131-SSA1-1995, which establishes the nutritional and sanitary requirements and specifications for infants' and young children's food.

Objective: Review and update sanitary and nutritional specifications for infant formulas and supplemental formulas as well as packaged foods and cereals for infants and young children. At present, the NOM does not contemplate special infant formulas for infants with special nutritional needs (including premature, preterm or low birth weight) and the formula-manufacturing industry has requested the revision and update of this document.

4. Project of Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-218-SSA1-2009, which establishes the

sanitary requirements and specifications for the preparation of flavored non-alcoholic beverages, frozen beverages, concentrates and caffeine-supplemented drinks.

Objective: To have a technical legal instrument that addresses microbiological, physiochemical, contaminant and additive concerns that may affect the preparation of such products, as well as the labeling and the packaging requirements to be met by flavored and caffeine-supplemented drinks. Caffeine-supplemented drinks are not regulated at present as these are new to the market.

5. Sanitary specifications for refrigerated or frozen foods prepared or semi-prepared for human consumption.

Objective: Develop a Mexican Official Norm with the purpose of having a technical and legal instrument which will include the required hygiene practices for establishments where food is prepared prepared and sold, microbiological specifications, physicochemical specifications, contaminants and additives allowed for the preparation of such products as well as labeling and packaging materials that can be used. It is necessary to control frozen and ready-to-eat food in order to avoid possible risks to the population.

6. Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-242-SSA1-2005, which establishes the sanitary specifications for testing methods for fresh, refrigerated, frozen and processed fishery products. NOM-028-SSA1-1993, which establishes sanitary requirements for canned fish. NOM-029-SSA1-SSA1-1993, which establishes sanitary requirements for fresh, refrigerated and frozen crustaceans. NOM-030-SSA1-1993, which establishes sanitary requirements for frozen and refrigerated bivalve mollusks. NOM-032-SSA1-1993, which establishes sanitary requirements for canned bivalve mollusks. NOM-129-SSA1-1995, which establishes sanitary requirements for dried-salted, smoked, fresh-chilled and frozen cephalopod mollusks and gastropods. (Published in the Federal Registry on August 25, 2008.)

Objective: Decrease health risks from consuming fish, seafood and sea or freshwater products. The review will be based on the risks of the different types of microorganisms and chemicals that could be found in such foods as well as the levels of consumption.

7. Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-243-SSA1-2005, which establishes sanitary requirements for milk, milk formula, blended dairy products and milk derivatives. Official Mexican Standard NOM-035-SSA1-1993, which establishes sanitary requirements for ice creams or milk or vegetable cream, sorbets and bases or ice cream mix. NOM 121-SSA1-1994, which establishes sanitary requirements for fresh, ripened and processed cheeses. NOM-184-SSA1-2002, 2002, which establishes sanitary requirements for milk, milk formula and blended dairy products. NOM-185-SSA1-1991, which establishes sanitary requirements for butter, cream, condensed sugar, fermented and acidified milk, and milk-based sweets. (Published in the Federal Registry on June 23, 2008).

Objective: Reduce health risks from consuming milk and products obtained from it. It is addressed to all related industries and seeks to establish the health requirements that products must meet. A unification of the various NOMS that regulate these products is needed.

8. Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-251-SSA1-2007, which establishes sanitary requirements for food processing, beverages or dietary supplements. NOM-093-SSA1-1994, which establishes health and hygiene practices for food preparation in established facilities. NOM-120-SSA1-1994, which establishes health and hygiene practices for food preparation, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages (Published on the Federal Registry on October 10, 2008.)

Objective: Review and update the specifications of hygiene and sanitation practices to be applied in food processing and beverages in order to avoid health risks.

9. Amendment to NOM-182-SSA1-1998, which focuses on labeling of horticultural nutrients.

Objective: The NOM modification establishes the review and update of the characteristics and specifications that horticultural nutrients have to comply with.

10. Official Mexican Regulation PROY-NOM-254-SSA1-2009, which establishes methods for setting maximum residue limits of pesticides in crops for human consumption.

Objective: this NOM establishes the technical guidelines and procedures for the approval of Maximum Residue Limits (LMR's) of pesticides for registration and use.